UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/PV.1382
16 August 1991

ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1382nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 5 August 1991, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. ALARCON DE QUESADA (Cuba)
(Vice-Chairman)

- Requests for hearing
- Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations
- Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

91-60981 5379V (E)

- Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations: Report of the Acting Chairman; report of the Secretary-General

- Organization of work

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Alarcon de Quesada (Cuba), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARING

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to draw members' attention to a communication containing a request for hearing which has been circulated in aide-memoire 17/91 and which relates to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies.

If there is no objection, may I take it that the Committee wishes to accede to that request?

It was so decided.

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/L.1757 and L.1758)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Members will recall that in my report on this item I indicated that further consultations with the administering Powers on the question of sending visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories would be necessary. Before considering the relevant draft resolution, members may wish to make further comments on the item, given the importance the Committee attaches to the question.

As no one wishes to speak, the Committee will continue consideration of this item at its next meeting.

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/AC.109/1080 and A/AC.109/L.1759)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Does any member wish to speak at this stage?

As that does not appear to be the case, the Committee will continue consideration of this item at its next meeting.

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/AC.109/1073, 1075 to 1078)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): In connection with this item, the Committee has before it the relevant working papers prepared by the Secretariat.

We shall now begin the general debate.

Ms. LIU Jinfeng (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation is pleased to have you, Sir, as our Chairman for this session and is confident that you will guide the session to complete success. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the other officers of the Committee for their efforts.

Today, while we are meeting here to review the question of decolonization, we are glad to note that a crucial moment has been reached in the political settlement of the question of Western Sahara. We appreciate the protracted and unswerving endeavours made by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to that end. We are convinced that the United Nations organizational and supervisory efforts, combined with the cooperation given by the OAU and the sincere coordination of the two sides involved and the parties concerned, will certainly make it possible for the people of Western Sahara to choose their future political status through a free, legitimate and fair referendum. We hope that during this process all the interested parties will extend full cooperation to the Secretary-General and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

(Ms. Liu Jinfeng, China)

This year marks the beginning of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. While appreciating the important contribution made by the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization to the efforts by the numerous colonial States to free themselves from colonial rule and attain national self-determination and independence, we should not forget that in our present-day world there exist over a dozen Non-Self-Governing Territories which have not yet achieved self-determination and independence.

(Ms. Liu Jinfeng, China)

In our view, the reality is that, though the cause of decolonization has witnessed great victories, the process of decolonization is far from coming to an end. The Chinese delegation believes that the Special Committee, abiding by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on decolonization, will continue to work for the eradication of colonialism and fight for the achievement of complete decolonization by the year 2000. Undoubtedly, this not only represents the ardent hope of the international community but also reflects the aspirations and demands of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

We maintain that, no matter how much the world situation may change, the principle of national self-determination cannot be changed. The right of all peoples, including the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to decide their political status independently and to engage freely in their eonomic, social and cultural development and the principle that no country has the right to deploy troops and establish military bases or installations in colonies and Non-Self-Governing Territories should also remain unchanged.

In order to help the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories achieve their national self-determination and independence at an early date and to enable the Special Committee to carry out its work more effectively, the Chinese delegation wishes to call on all the administering Powers to cooperate actively with this Committee and provide the necessary convenience for the dispatch of visiting missions.

Since there are scarcely a dozen Non-Self-Governing Territories left in the world, the workload of this Committee has been sharply reduced in comparison with the 1960s and 1970s. The Chinese delegation is in favour of the proposal that efforts should be made to improve further the work of the Special Committee and raise its efficiency in line with the changed

(Ms. Liu Jinfeng, China)

situation. We wish to express our appreciation to those delegations which have contributed to such reforms as merging the two subcommittees and introducing the omnibus resolution on small Territories.

The Chinese Government and people have always sympathized with and supported the peoples of the colonies and Non-Self-Governing Territories in their just struggle for self-determination and independence and regard this as an unshirkable international obligation. We will continue to work with other members of this Committee and the international community for the completion of the decolonization process.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I now call on the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. SRIWIDJAJA (Indonesia): It is indeed a pleasure, Sir, to extend our felicitations to you on your presiding over this Committee meeting. I also avail myself of this opportunity to pledge my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

In the last decade of the twentieth century, we are all too aware of the changing global political climate and the transition to new patterns in international relationships. These changes and trends contain new opportunities and challenges in mankind's constant search for a better and more peaceful world.

Against this backdrop it is important for us to reflect on the historic adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the General Assembly 31 years ago. This landmark document ushered in an era characterized by the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination, thus contributing in large measure to the peoples' aspirations for freedom and independence around the globe. One need

(Mr. Sriwidjaja, Indonesia)

hardly look beyond the membership of the Organization to confirm the remarkable transformation of the geopolitical map of the world.

Through its multifarious activities, the Special Committee has made a singular contribution to the establishment of a more just international order. Indeed, the emergence of 80 new States attests to the paramount role played by the United Nations in the decolonization process.

From the outset our commitment was nurtured at the Asian-African Conference held in Bandung in 1955. We were convinced that international peace and stability could never be attained without freedom and equality for all nations and peoples.

As an initiator of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and a member of the Special Committee since its inception, Indonesia is proud to be associated with its efforts to bring justice and freedom to the oppressed and dispossessed peoples of the world. While we draw great satisfaction from the progressive demise of the colonial era, we must not lose sight of the remnants of colonialism that still thrive in some regions of the world.

In this regard it is important to give special attention to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and the South Pacific. The unique problems arising out of their small size, geographic location, limited resource base and lack of infrastructure make them particularly vulnerable and renders implementation of their right to self-determination highly complex. Innovative solutions must be found to overcome these problems. In the meantime, it is incumbent upon the administering Powers to refrain from economic, military and other activities that directly or indirectly impede the process of decolonization.

(Mr. Sriwidjaja, Indonesia)

Two years ago the General Assembly declared the 1990s as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. It is imperative that we should renew our commitment to resolve in harmony and cooperation the remaining vestiges of colonialism in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Last year, as we commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration, nowhere was the mobilization of international solidarity with and support for the cause of decolonization more evident than at the regional seminar held at Vanuatu. Indonesia considers itself privileged to have participated in that important event.

One other item to which my delegation would like to allude briefly is the rationalization of the work of the Committee. We have no difficulty in agreeing in principle with the major thrust of the proposals and recommendations of the Working Group. When they are implemented in their entirety, we can be assured of not only the smooth functioning of this Committee but also the fulfilment of its mandate through inter alia the avoidance of duplication and repetition. Efforts at restructuring and regrouping similar items have also been undertaken with success and effectiveness by other committees in the Organization.

As we approach the dawn of a new century, let us collectively strengthen our efforts towards global concordance and conciliation to steer the world towards a stage where all colonial peoples are emancipated and their hard-won independence safeguarded.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The Committee will continue its consideration of this item at its next meeting.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/AC.109/1065, 1066 and 1070)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): There are no speakers on this item. The Committee will continue its consideration at our next meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (A/AC.109/L.1761, E/1991/116); REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/229)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): As I informed the Committee at our last meeting, Ambassador Renagi Renagi Lohia, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, represented the Committee at the second regular session this year of the Economic and Social Council at Geneva in July. I wish to thank Ambassador Lohia on behalf of the Committee for his activities, and I now call on him.

Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance: As the Chairman indicated, I had the honour to represent the Committee at the 1991 second regular session of the Economic and Social Council. As members are aware, the Committee always participated in the debates of the Council during its consideration of the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations", item 13 on this year's agenda of the Council.

As I pointed out in my introductory remarks in the Third Committee of the Economic and Social Council when it considered the item, the Special Committee has always attached the utmost importance, and rightly so, to its participation in the Council's debates on the item.

Before going into the details of how the item was dealt with this year by the Economic and Social Council, I should like first to draw the attention of the Committee to the joint report of the Acting Chairman of this Committee and

(Mr. Lohia, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Petitions,
Information and Assistance)

the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid on their consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council, contained in document E/1991/116, and to the report of the Acting Chairman on the item, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1761.

The Third Committee of the Economic and Social Council began consideration of item 13 on 19 July. In accordance with etablished practice, my colleague Ambassador Oudovenko, Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian SSR, representing the Special Committee against Apartheid, and I were given the privilege of introducing the item.

A summary of the statement that I delivered on behalf of the Committee is contained in the report of the Acting Chairman, which I mentioned earlier. I shall therefore confine myself in this presentation to the special emphasis that I placed on the specific problems of the remaining Territories, most of them small island Territories. In this connection, I drew the attention of the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations to the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in New York at United Nations Headquarters, from 25 to 29 June 1990. I urged those agencies and institutions, in formulating their assistance programmes, to take due account of those conclusions and recommendations and to assist in achieving the objectives set out by General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, calling for complete decolonization by the year 2000.

(Mr. Lohia, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Petitions,
Information and Assistance)

More than 12 countries and institutions participated in the general debate that followed. Following that debate, a draft resolution was presented jointly by the representative of the Special Committee against Apartheid and myself on behalf of this Committee. The draft resolution was introduced on 24 July by the representative of Zambia on behalf of 15 sponsors. That draft resolution was an updated version of the resolution adopted by the Council last year, with two new paragraphs relating to the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of Governmental Experts referred to earlier in this statement.

During the consultations that followed the introduction of the draft resolution, discussions centred on whether the paragraphs relating to apartheid should be amended to reflect the evolution of the situation in South Africa over the past year. However, proposals made in that respect by some delegations were not retained.

The sponsors of the draft resolution did accept an amendment to paragraph 7 of the draft, whereby that paragraph, in which the Council requests the specialized agencies, as well as international and regional organizations, to take the appropriate measures to accelerate economic and social progress in the remaining Territories, would be replaced by the corresponding paragraph of last year's resolution.

Draft resolution E/1991/C.3/L.11, as orally amended, was adopted by the Third Committee of the Economic and Social Council by a roll-call vote of 47 votes to none, with one abstention. I understand that the abstention was made on technical grounds. I also understand that, pending the issuance by the Economic and Social Council of the official version of the resolution that

(Mr. Lohia, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Petitions,
Information and Assistance)

was adopted, copies of the draft resolution as it was submitted can be obtained from the secretariat of this Committee.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Committee for having given me the opportunity to serve the Committee in this respect.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to thank Ambassador Lohia for having represented the Committee so well at the meeting of the Economic and Social Council. I also wish to thank him for his oral report.

As members will recall, at the beginning of this meeting, the Committee granted the request for hearing relating to this item to Mr. Corbin, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, which was established by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, a ministerial advisory body affiliated with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

I invite Mr. Corbin, representing the Working Group on Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, to take a place at the petitioners' table and to make his statement.

Mr. CORBIN (CDCC): Sir, on behalf of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), I wish to congratulate you on having been selected to guide the proceedings of this Committee and to thank you for the opportunity to address the Special Committee on the question of the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization by the specialized agencies and other international institutions associated with the United Nations.

(Mr. Corbin, CDCC)

I should also like to congratulate Ambassador Lohia of Papua New Guinea for his activity as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, as well as for having represented the Special Committee in consultations with the Economic and Social Council.

As a matter of background, the CDCC was established in 1975 as a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which is one of the five United Nations regional commissions throughout the world and reports to the Economic and Social Council.

(Mr. Corbin, CDCC)

The CDCC collaborates with such other Caribbean and Latin American organizations as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and other regional institutions. It also coordinates closely with the United Nations system of organizations to facilitate increased participation by Caribbean countries, both independent and non-independent, in the work of the Organization, consistent with General Assembly resolutions from the sixth through the forty-fifth sessions establishing that the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular, in the United Nations system is in furtherance of the decolonization process. Currently, four Non-Self-Governing Territories under review in this Committee - the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico - are associate members of both ECLAC and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. In addition, the free associated Territories of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are associate members of these United Nations bodies.

In a statement on this item before the Special Committee in 1989, the chairman of the CDCC - at that time the Government of the United States Virgin Islands - expressed an interest in developing closer collaboration with this Committee in implementing the relevant resolutions on fostering participation of the Territories in the work of the specialized agencies and technical organs of the United Nations system to assist these Territories in their development. In an attempt to fulfil this longstanding mandate given by the General Assembly to increase the direct participation of these Territories in the work of the United Nations system, permit me to update the Committee on the work of the CDCC in examining the current level of access of

(Mr. Corbin, CDCC)

Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system. The aim of the CDCC initiative is threefold: to identify areas within the system that could assist the economic and social development of these non-independent Territories; to identify any impediments to participation by these Territories in the United Nations system; and to promote the increased access of these Territories to the work of the United Nations system through implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

The involvement of all Caribbean countries in the United Nations system has been a particular concern of the CDCC since its formation. The CDCC was designed as a subregional grouping within the wider Latin American region to concentrate on concerns unique to the island developing countries of the Caribbean, irrespective of political status, language or other artificial barriers that have served to limit communication within the Caribbean.

At its Tenth Ministerial Session in 1987, the CDCC began to focus on the difficulties encountered by the small island developing countries of the Caribbean, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and approved within its action plan a directive to examine the access of these Territories to the United Nations system, with the aim of identifying areas within the system that could assist these Territories in their development process. This CDCC initiative coincided with General Assembly resolutions commending the use of special provisions in the constitutions of certain United Nations specialized agencies and regional commissions that would permit the admission of non-independent countries as associate members, and it called for the progressive increase of these countries' participation in the work of the Organization's technical organs and specialized agencies.

(Mr. Corbin, CDCC)

The initial review conducted by the CDCC in 1987 revealed that compliance with these resolutions varied, depending on the United Nations agency concerned, and that even in cases where the terms of reference of a particular agency had been changed to allow for associate membership or observer status, information on potential participation by these Territories was often not available from the agency concerned.

Recognizing the need for further review, the CDCC at its Eleventh Ministerial Session in 1988 approved the continuation of the examination of the non-independent countries' access to the system and made initial contacts with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) regarding potential joint collaboration in this area. The Economic and Social Council subsequently approved the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation, endorsing the continuation of the CDCC initiative in this area. In order to consolidate further the emphasis on this issue, the CDCC created at its Twelfth Session in 1989 a Working Group on Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, which is currently undertaking an analysis of the level of participation of these countries in the United Nations system.

The activities of the CDCC in this area were endorsed by the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization conducted by the Special Committee on Decolonization in Barbados from 19 to 21 June 1990. In paragraph 20 of its report, the Seminar had endorsed the view that:

"direct and closer participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations was an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories".

The report of the Seminar, adopted by the Committee in 1990, also contained the proposal that:

(Mr. Corbin, CDCC)

"the Special Committee, in consultation with the CDCC, should request the specialized agencies either to implement their provisions for membership for the Non-Self-Governing Territories or to introduce such provisions where none exist consistent with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly".

The CDCC has taken the view that the unique characteristics of the individual Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned should be of paramount importance in the formulation of strategies for their socio-economic development, including the facilitation of their participation in United Nations programmes, since these Territories, unique among island developing countries, are at different levels of political, constitutional and socio-economic development, requiring differing approaches to their development process. A communiqué of the Governments of the Non-Self-Governming Territories of Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands adopted at the close of the 1990 Barbados decolonization seminar emphasized this point and:

"called upon the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to actively pursue all necessary measures towards the acceleration of progress in the social and economic life of the Territory"

and called for the:

"direct facilitation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations".

At its Thirteenth Session, held in Kingston, Jamaica last month, the CDCC approved a resolution that endorses the continuation of the ongoing analysis

(Mr. Corbin, CDCC)

with regard to the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories and free associated Territories and initiates contact with the Governing Councils of the United Nations bodies concerned to determine modalities for increasing the participation of these countries in their respective work programmes. The Government of the United States Virgin Islands was re-elected Chairman of the Working Group at that time.

(Mr. Corbin, CDCC)

The CDCC was also informed at the thirteenth session of a proposal made to the Subcommittee on Small Territories, in June of this year, for an examination of the Non-Self-Governing Territories' potential for observer status in the General Assembly, in the category either of "intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly as observers and maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters" or of "other organizations" receiving the same invitation.

The CDCC views this proposal with interest, since such a status would afford the Non-Self-Governing Territories the opportunity for more comprehensive access to the work of the Assembly and of its organs and agencies and, if approved, would be in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for increased participation by these Territories in the United Nations system.

As a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the CDCC is committed to carrying out, to the extent possible, the mandate, given to the wider United Nations system by the General Assembly, to increase the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the United Nations system. In this respect, the parallel between the work of the Special Committee on Decolonization and the CDCC is quite evident, and we therefore call for closer collaboration to facilitate increased cooperation in furtherance of the development process of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under review in the Special Committee.

One potential area of cooperation with the Special Committee might lie in furthering the CDCC study on the non-independent Caribbean countries' access to programmes and activities of the United Nations system where those

(Mr. Corbin, CDCC)

countries are Non-Self-Governing Territories whose status is under review in the Special Committee.

In this connection, we respectfully request your Committee to consider such wording for the resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization by the specialized agencies and other institutions associated with the United Nations as would increase the likelihood that the long-standing resolutions in this area would be implemented by the specialized agencies and technical organs. We offer the following wording for your consideration:

> "Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate United Nations institutions so as to request that these bodies take necessary measures to comply with the resolution, and further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution".

This wording would bring the resolution on this matter into line with other resolutions of the Assembly.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you, on behalf of the working group of the CDCC, for the opportunity to address the Committee on this agenda item and to offer a few suggestions designed to initiate cooperation between the Special Committee and the CDCC.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank Mr. Corbin for the valuable information he has furnished the Committee.

The petitioner withdrew.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): If there are no further speakers on this agenda item, the Committee will continue its consideration of it at its next meeting.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to draw members' attention to the fact that there are very few speakers so far registered to speak on the items on the agenda. I once again invite members who wish to speak on those items to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible, so that we can conclude our consideration of them within the time allotted us in our programme of work.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.